

Quakers Coppice Nest Box Breeding Results - 2017

This season is the 30th year that monitoring has taken place of the 40+ boxes that have been erected on the reserve. This year we monitored 36, a mix of large & small hole boxes plus 3 wedge-shaped (Treecreeper) boxes.

The tables below are a summary of the data compiled. In keeping with tradition, we offer the last five years data for comparison ...

Blue Tit

Year	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledges	Productivity (i.e. fledges ÷ nests)
2017	13	110	98	70	5.4
2016	8	61	51	18	2.3
2015	10	82	77	51	5.1
2014	12	107	95	49	4.1
2013	13	122	99	85	6.5
average (since '85)					6.3

Great Tit

Year	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledges	Productivity (i.e. fledges ÷ nests)
2017	6	38	37	25	4.2
2016	5	21	15	6	1.2
2015	8	44	36	24	3.0
2014	6	38	33	28	4.7
2013	8	47	44	34	4.3
average (since '85)					4.9

Stock Dove

Year	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledges	Productivity (i.e. fledges ÷ nests)
2017	9	19	10	9	1.0
2016	10	20	8	7	0.7
2015	7	12	11	8	1.3
2014	9	17	13	13	1.4
2013	4	8	8	4	1.0

Stock Doves breeding season extends beyond our recording period, so the data is incomplete

Observations: -

Occupancy: Small Hole – 17 of 20 including 1 Nuthatch nest – (5 fledging of a clutch of 8 eggs [same as last year]); Stock Dove - 9 of 13; This year, all 3 of the Treecreeper boxes were occupied by Blue Tits. In total, eggs in 29 boxes. The remaining 7 boxes were either not occupied or the nest were not completed during the recording period.

'Survival': 3 Stock Doves and 1 Blue Tit failed to fledge their young.

Trends: The tables reveal that 2016 appeared to have been a 'blip' – productivity this season returning to figures similar to those of 2013 through to 2015.

Egg laying date: the average "first egg date" is the 2nd earliest since this factor has been monitored and a Great Tit laid later than usual – 21st May, extending our recording period.

Geoff - "...in my first season, I found much of interest and a lot to think about."

If anyone is interested in joining us on the survey, please get in touch.

Bill Fox, Geoff Gibson and John Thompson